REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 30, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Replacement Figures 1-6 are submitted. Claims 32-61 have been canceled without prejudice, and the subject matter thereof is submitted in new claims 62-93. No new matter has been added, and support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification, for example, page 2, line 32 to page 3, line 20, page 5, lines 19-26, page 6, lines 29-31, and page 7, lines 7-10. No new matter has been added by the new claims or the replacement drawings. Thus, claims 62-93 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claim 32 was objected to for informalities. Applicants have canceled claim 32 and submit new claim 62 to correct the informalities. Thus, the objection is rendered moot.

Claims 32-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,122,514 (*Spaur et al.*) Claims 32-61 have been canceled by this amendment. New claims 62-93, however, incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 32-61. In order to expedite prosecution, applicants address the rejection of claims 32-61 in view of new claims 62-93. Applicants submit that *Spaur* does not disclose or suggest all the features of pending claims 62-93

Claim 62, upon which claims 63-74 are dependent, recites a method for routing a data transmission connection between terminal equipment and a host. A network includes at least two access points for connection of the terminal equipment to a data transmission network. The method includes establishing a criterion for a choice of an access point. The method also includes evaluating access points according to the criterion. The method also includes choosing at least two of the access points which meet the criterion. The method also includes transmitting at least a first part of data in a first direction through one of the at least two chosen access points and at least a second part of the data in the first direction through another of the at least two chosen access points.

Claim 75, upon which claims 76-85 are dependent, recites a method of routing data transmission connection between terminal equipment and a host over a data transmission network including at least two access points for connection of the terminal equipment to the data transmission network. The method includes establishing a criterion for a choice of a data transmission relaying capacity of the access points. The method also includes estimating the access points in accordance with the criterion. The method also includes choosing a relaying capacity of each access point according to results of the estimation step. The method also includes proportioning data transmission traffic between the access points in relation to the chosen relaying capacities such that at least a first part of data in a first direction is transmitted through one of the at least two access points and at least a second part of the data in the first direction is transmitted through another of the at least two access points.

Claim 86, upon which claim 87 is dependent, recites an arrangement for routing a data transmission connection between terminal equipment and a host over a data transmission network wherein a network includes at least two access points for connecting the terminal equipment to the data transmission network. The arrangement includes a router located in the terminal equipment for routing a data transmission through at least two access points such that at least a first part of the data in a first direction is transmitted through one of the at least two access points and at least a second part of the data in the first direction is transmitted through another of the at least two access points.

Claim 88, upon which claim 89 is dependent, recites an arrangement for routing a data transmission connection between terminal equipment and a host over a data transmission network. A network includes at least two access points for connecting the terminal equipment of the data transmission network. The arrangement includes a router located in the terminal equipment and in a gateway exchange for routing a data transmission through at least to access points such that at least a first part of data in a first direction is transmitted through one of the at least two access points and at least a second part of the data in the first direction is transmitted through another of the at least two access points.

Claim 90, upon which claims 91 and 92 are dependent, recites an arrangement for routing a data transmission connection between terminal equipment and a host over a data transmission network. A network includes at least two access points for connecting

the terminal equipment to a data transmission network. The arrangement includes a router located in a gateway exchange for routing a data transmission through at least two access points such that at least a first part of data in a first direction is transmitted through one of the at least two access points and at least a second part of the data in the first direction is transmitted through another of the at least two access points.

Independent claim 92 is similar to claim 62, but recites a terminal equipment configured to carry out the steps recited in claim 62. Claim 93 is similar to claim 62 as well, but recites terminal equipment having means for performing the steps recited in claim 62.

As discussed in the specification, the present invention enables the choosing of more than one access for connection between the terminal equipment and the host so that data is transmitted along at least two different routes between the terminal equipment and the host. The data may be received in one direction along these at least two different routes. Further, the present invention enables the traffic to be divided between at least two accesses according to pre-established criteria so that certain part of the traffic may be relayed through one access and the remaining traffic may be relayed through another access. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of *Spaur* fails to disclose or suggest all the elements of any of the presently pending claims. Therefore, *Spaur* fails to provide the critical and unobvious advantages discussed above.

Spaur relates to communications channel selection. *Spaur* describes a communications system for sending and receiving information relative to a mobile unit.

A number of network channels are available. A system of *Spaur* includes a link selector for selecting an acceptable network channel. During one bi-directional communications operation, information is transmitted using one network channel and received using a second different network channel. For example, communications system 10 sends data over a spread spectrum link to a remote station at a low cost because the transfer time is not important. During the same operation, the same remote station sends information to communications system 10 using a higher cost network channel because the transfer time is important. Thus, *Spaur* describes choosing a network channel, or one of links 34a-34n, to transmit or receive data according to cost considerations. *Spaur*, however, does not disclose or suggest choosing at least two access points and transmitting at least a first part of data in a first direction through one of the at least two access points and at least a second part of the data in the first direction through another of the at least two access points.

In contrast, claim 62 recites "choosing at least two of the access points which meet said criterion and transmitting at least a first part of data in a first direction through one of the at least two chosen access points and at least a second part of the data in the first direction through another of the at least two chosen access points." Independent claims 75, 86, 88, 90, 92 and 93 also recite these features. Applicants submit that *Spaur* does not disclose or suggest at least these features of the presently pending claims.

According to the present invention, different types of data, such as voice and image, may be divided into a first part and a second part, and each part may be routed

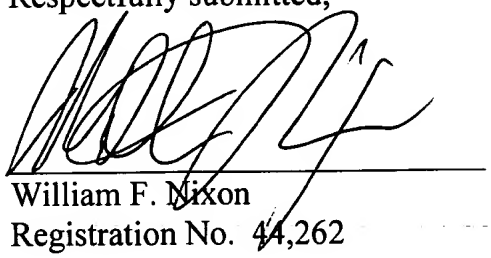
through one of at least two access points and another of at least two access points. In an embodiment, all the parts of the data may be routed simultaneously through at least two access points. *Spaur* does not disclose or suggest this feature as *Spaur* transmits information using one network channel and receives information using a second network channel. The communications network of *Spaur* communicates in a bi-directional manner with the remote station, and does not use at least two access points in sending a first part and a second part of data in a first direction, for example from the communications network to the remote station or vice versa. Thus, *Spaur* does not disclose or suggest all the features of the pending claims. Applicants respectfully request that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 63-74, 76-85, 87, 89 and 91 are directly or indirectly dependent upon the independent claims discussed above. The dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons given above, and because they recite additional subject matter to the independent claims. Thus, it is submitted that each of claims 62-93 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 62-93 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Petition for Extension of Time
Replacement Figures 1-6 (5 sheets)